

REMARKS

The undersigned notes with appreciation that claims 12-13 have been allowed (section 5, page 7 of the office action).

Section 1 of the office action identifies claim 12 as being rejected for indefiniteness. It appears that claim 12 was incorrectly identified in the office action, as claim 1 included the words "switch board holding member", but claim 12 did not. On review of the application, it is noted that the following paragraphs of the detailed description identify the board holder portions 9: paragraphs [0018] and [0020]. In response, claims 1, 6, and 8 have been amended to refer to a board holder, and the summary section of the application has been amended to refer to a board holder. Given the teachings in paragraphs [0018] and [0020], these revisions should not present a new matter issue and should fully address the rejection lodged under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1 and 6-10 were rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,198,471 to Cook. Claims 5, 7, and 11 were rejected as being obvious over Cook in view of U.S. Patent 5,670,988 to Tickle. These rejections are traversed.

Cook fails to teach or suggest "a parts holding member, interposed between the switch board and the main board so that the switch board is perpendicularly provided on the main board, and adapted to receive a stress generated when the push switch is pushed" as recited in amended claim 1. In Figures 2 and 3 of Cook, a main board 38 is disposed in the housing (110, 105) and the switch board (53) is disposed in the housing (40, 41). In Cook, since the switch board is not perpendicularly provided on the main board, the stress applied to the switch board would not be transmitted to the main board. In this regard, Cook discloses a structure which is completely different from the claimed structure for preventing the main board from being damaged by the stress applied to the switch board.

Tickle does not make up for the deficiencies of Cook. Tickle describes an LED signaling tool, and like Cook, wholly lacks "a parts holding member, interposed

between the switch board and the main board so that the switch board is perpendicularly provided on the main board, and adapted to receive a stress generated when the push switch is pushed” as recited in independent claim 1. Dependent claims 5, 7, and 11 thus specifically require this same element which is missing from both Cook and Tickle.

In view of the above, the rejections of claims 1 and 5-11 should now be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 6 where rejected as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,207,426 to Inoue. This rejection is traversed.

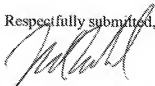
Figure 4 of Inoue clearly shows a structure in the switch board (16) is perpendicularly provided on the main board (146)(see Figure 5). Inoue has no showing and is completely silent about “a parts holding member, interposed between the switch board and the main board...and adapted to receive stress generated when the push switch is pushed” as is required independent claim 1. Since the main board (16) and the switch board (146) are directly connected with each other, the stress applied to the switch board (146) is directly transmitted to the main board (16). In contrast, in the present invention since the parts holding member is interposed between the switch board and the main board, it is possible to prevent the stress applied to the switch board from being directly transferred to the main board. For at least this reason, the rejection of claims 1 and 6 in view of Inoue should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered, that claims 1 and 5 to 13 be allowed, and that the application be passed to issue.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

A provisional petition is hereby made for any extension of time necessary for the continued pendency during the life of this application. Please charge any fees for such provisional petition and any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael E. Whitham', is written over the typed name.

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